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FRANCE IS CALLED TOP U.S. PROBLEM

Fulbright Asserts Paris, Not Havana, Gave Washington Most Serious Setback

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Feb. 17—Senator J. W. Fulbright declared today that France rather than Cuba now represented the most serious defeat for United States foreign policy.

The Arkansas Democrat, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, vehemently assailed the decision of President de Gaulle to exclude Britain from the European Economic Community.

"I think it was the most serious setback to our principal foreign policy, the most important of them all, that we have suffered," he said.

'Cuba Not a Threat'

Turning to the political dispute over Cuba, Senator Fulbright ridiculed the view that "this little country" posed a genuine threat to the United States, which he characterized as "the most powerful nation in the world."

"I do not regard Cuba, as such, as a threat to the physical security of this country or to any other country in this hemisphere," he said on the "Adlai Stevenson Reports" program, presented on television and radio by the American Broadcasting Company.

"To get excited and stir the country up as if we were about to be over-run, now this seems ridiculous to me," the Senator observed.

He charged that Governor

John Edgar Hoover of New York State for Harry Goldwater of Arizona and Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania were among the Republican group that was guilty of "considerable partisanship" in making statements that would lead one to believe that Cuba was about to invade the United States.

Senator Fulbright made a similar accusation yesterday that leading Republicans had been putting forward "irresponsible" attacks designed to destroy the nation's bipartisan foreign policy.

Mr. Stevenson, the United States representative to the United Nations, said he agreed with his guest's view that Cuba did not pose a military threat to this country or to the rest of the Western Hemisphere.

'They Don't Have the Ships'

"They don't have the ships," he said. "They don't have the logistic support. And it is not a military threat for the very reason that we won't let it be."

Recalling the negotiations that led to the withdrawal of Soviet missiles and jet bombers from Cuba, Mr. Stevenson observed that the withdrawal of troops had not been included in the agreement.

"This was a voluntary declaration by Khrushchev, that he intended to remove these troops sometime," he continued. "We can't charge him with bad faith for not removing them. We can't charge him with aggravation of our concern and the dangers to the hemisphere by leaving them there."

Subversive training being given to Latin American students constituted the major danger from Cuba, Mr. Stevenson maintained. He added, however, that the removal of Soviet troops from Cuban soil would reduce the "anxiety" that existed in the United States.

Voicing agreement with this view, Senator Fulbright described Cuba as a "source of infection" that could spread unless there was alert action to cure "the fertile ground" in Latin America.

"But," he added, "we are proceeding under the Alliance for Progress to try to do something about this."

Senator Fulbright said that the most important problem facing the United States could be found in Western Europe.

Aim of Partnership

He said "the principal objective of our foreign policy since World War II" was creation of a strong and unified Europe that would maintain a partnership with the United States.

This had been making steady progress, he went on, until General de Gaulle rejected Britain's bid to join the Common Market and suggested that "the Anglo-Saxons" wanted to dominate Europe.

"My complaint with the gen-

eral is not only what he did but the way he did it," Senator Fulbright remarked. "I thought his language in referring to the Anglo-Saxons was unnecessarily contentious and insulting."

"What really offended me," he continued, "was the general's questioning of our motives in instituting the Marshall plan, when he insinuated very clearly that this was motivated by a desire to dominate Europe. And I think it is absolutely false. And it is a serious reflection upon this country."

"I think, this is a rudeness that we shouldn't have to tolerate from anybody," he added.

Mr. Stevenson said he shared the Senator's concern about President de Gaulle's "quite in-temperate" language, but he expressed understanding for "the anxiety of France to play a larger role in European strategy."

The United Nations delegate suggested that President de Gaulle was primarily concerned with how much he could influence or control the military destiny of France and the defense of Europe.

The time has come, he said, for a re-examination of "all of our relations with respect to Europe and our grand alliance."

Asserting that he did not feel "too dispirited" about the European situation, Mr. Stevenson expressed hope that the development of a multinational nuclear force and the unification of Europe would be achieved despite the present opposition of France.

Senator Fulbright, who conceded that President de Gaulle might have some legitimate complaint, agreed that France's rejection of Britain should not prove final and fatal.

STATINTL

in. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will appear at a closed session Tuesday, and Dr. Manuel A. de Varona, former President of the Cuban Senate, will testify in open hearings Wednesday.

Representative Selden said he hoped "the subcommittee can blueprint Khrushchev's grand design in the Americas and at the same time make recommendations as to the best way to counter his plan."

"I am convinced," the Congressman declared, "the Kremlin is using Castro's island as a command post to subvert the Western Hemisphere by a revolution of terror and tyranny."

Another Congressional hearing on the Cuban situation is expected to get underway later during the week. The Senate Preparedness subcommittee, headed by John Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, will review the nation's over-all military posture and the Cuban situation in closed hearings.